Generation of Irrigation Capacity

†1358. DR. D. MASTHAN:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have made an estimate of the requirement of irrigation in the country;

(b) if so, to what extent irrigation capacity is required to be generated;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a time bound plan has been prepared to meet this requirement; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Net Sown Area in the country is 142.82 million hectares as per Land Use Statistics brought out by the Ministry of Agriculture for the year 1996-97 (latest). Against this, Ultimate Irrigation Potential (UIP) in the country has been assessed as 139.89 million hecatres (m.ha.) Out of this, irrigation capacity of 89.56 m.ha has already been created by the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan, leaving 50.33 m.ha. of irrigation capacity to be generated.

(c) and (d) Creation of irrigation capacity is a continuous process and for this purpose the State Governments take up major, medium, and minor irrigation projects. In the Ninth Five Year Plan, target of creating additional irrigation capacity of 17.05 m.ha. comprising 9.81 m.ha. from major and medium irrigation projects and 7.24 m.ha. from minor irrigation schemes, has been set. Outlays of Rs. 42644 crore for major and medium irrigation sector and Rs. 8985 crore for minor irrigation sector have been provided in the Ninth Plan (State Sector) for development of irrigation facilities in the country. Besides plan allocation, the Union Government is also providing Central Loan Assistance to the States through Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme for expeditious completion of on-going major & medium irrigation projects, which are languishing for want of funds. Also the Government of India has prepared a National Perspective Plan for transfer of water from surplus areas to water deficit areas. As per preliminary assessment, it is envisaged that additional irrigation capacity of 35 million hectares would be feasible through inter-basin transfer of water.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.